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The Bates Student

Volume 127, Number 9 • November 14, 1997

Celebrating our 125th Anniversary - 1873-1998

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Students to compile informal evaluations of professors

By CHRISTINE HOPKINS
Staff Writer

Two students are gathering and publishing an informal collection of professor and course evaluations with the intention of helping Bates students make more informed decisions about course selection.

Their work of Cali Mortenson '98 and Evette Rios '99 is separate and independent from the standard in-class evaluations that the college conducts in classes at the end of each semester. About 500 colleges and universities have independent course evaluations that student-compiled and published.

Bates students evaluate their courses and professors in evaluations are not made

evaluations, they will be made public.

Rios said that the plan originated when one student of color had the idea of documenting information about which professors were "interested in rights for students of color, women, and in gay-bisexual issues."

Rios and Mortenson drafted a letter of support that they handed out to members of the faculty during their last meeting on November 3. When one professor refused to take the letter of support, Mortenson decided to spread the idea to as many people as possible over e-mail.

She and Rios asked students to send comments about positive and negative experiences with their professors to them through abacus at either *erios* or *cmortens*. Alternatively, she requested that comments be sent to Box 406.

Mortenson explained in an e-mail interview that she and other supporters "feel that professors, tenured or otherwise, should be held accountable for their teaching. And since the traditional faculty evaluations don't seem to be helping when students choose courses, we thought we should take action on our own."

That action involves gathering informal student evaluations, largely through e-mail, and organizing the results in a document organized by department. Currently, only Mortenson and Rios are compiling the records. But, they said, "we would love help."

When the evaluations are organized and published, Mortenson and Rios said they will make them available to all students at the Multicultural Center, and possibly through an informal network at first-year centers and residence halls.

Rios and Mortenson expressed doubt that the administration would agree with their ideal plan to have a copy in every first-year student's introduction folder.

"I see this project as akin to consumer reports," Mortenson said. "All students here at Bates are paying a lot of money to be here, and we deserve to get the best teaching possible. This publication will be another tool to help students select courses to maximize their learning at Bates."

Response from the faculty has been

Continued on Page 2

"I see this project as akin to consumer reports. ... All students here at Bates are paying a lot of money to be here, and we deserve to get the best teaching possible."

Cali Mortenson '98

public to the Bates community.

Over the years, numerous students, especially first-years, have expressed concern that they are denied college evaluations that could be valuable resources that would help them make more informed choices about what classes to take.

Mortenson and Rios plan to bypass the legal problems that could entail from attempts to gain access to professor evaluations. Under their system, Rios and Mortenson will solicit, gather and print students' experiences with and opinions of all professors. After collating the off-the-record

Harvest Dinner boycott is underway

Boycott to create awareness of accessibility issues

By KERI FOX
News Editor

Instead of standing in line for Harvest dinner on Wednesday, some students will stand in line for box dinners. The boxed dinners are for those boycotting the traditional Bates munch-athon in support of allocating funds for building ramps, widening doors, and making other improvements that would make more Bates accessible to disabled students.

"The boycott is step two," said Shawn Draper '98. Step one, he said, was getting the administration and the campus community to recognize the accessibility problem. It was a step that's taken three years, said Draper, who was a sophomore when he began working toward making the campus more accessible.

"I'm a senior, so I've gone through the

"We don't want to see anyone go without a meal."

Director of Dining Services Bob Volpi

channels, talked to the president several times. They've always said that money was the problem," Draper said.

Draper and David Lieber '98 are spearheading efforts to make the campus more aware of inaccessibility issues. The two said they had been tossing the idea around since an early semester visit to The Cage, a popular Lewiston watering-hole.

Lieber and Draper said they chose to boycott Harvest Dinner instead of another event because Harvest Dinner is a large public event that they perceive as expensive.

Draper and Lieber said they hope that making people aware of how the college spends its money will encourage the administration to rethink the motivations behind budget allocations.

The two, especially Lieber, have been in contact with Dining Service's director Bob Volpi almost since the boycott's inception.

One of Draper and Lieber's main concerns is assuring the Dining Service staff and the rest of the community that the boycott is not in response to Dining Service's performance. Instead, "this is about informing people, not intimidating them," said Lieber.

Lieber said he spoke with both Volpi and a large number of Dining Service's staff on Thursday to ensure them of the motives behind and intent of the boycott.

"They're upset about us [boycotting students] not being there, but they understand. ... it was important to me [to talk to them]," Lieber said.

In response, Volpi has offered bag dinners to boycotters. "We don't want to see anyone go without a meal," he said.

"It [the boycott] can be taken a couple ways," he said. "If it is because of cost, then I would say there's more to the meal than the cost of it. There's the excitement and the aspect of community building. Using the Harvest Dinner as the focal point [to raise accessibility awareness] is disturbing because the increases in cost [over a regular dinner] are minimal."

Volpi said that if the cost of every meal served from September 3 to December 5 were totalled, the average cost per meal would be \$2. This cost includes all the special dinners.

Volpi said that he will not know the total cost of Harvest Dinner until after the event.

He said that any food that is "wasted because people choose not to come in, then [the] more [money] is put to risk."

To avoid causing a problem of wasting food and money, Lieber and Draper said that they will enable prospective boycotters to sign up in advance for box dinners.

"They [administrators] realize the seriousness of this issue," Lieber said.

"Harvard conceded that in the past three years, the approach they've taken — in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) — has been a mistake. It was too limited," he continued.

"The school [now] wants to make accessibility more of a complete thing in line with its egalitarian values," said Draper.

Inside

Organizations get ready!

The Budget Committee is being formed. Soon it'll be time to lay your club-soul bare. Get an update in News, Page 2

You speak, therefore you are?

One man writes about fear and other dilemmas facing students who speak. Turn to Forum, Page 4

Every month could be Latino Heritage Month

But Solidaridad Latina is celebrating it now. It's all in Features, Page 8

Murder! Loyalty! Morality!

Antigone is sensational! The review is in Arts, Page 10

Baseball priorities run amok

Flip to Sports, Page 12

Quote of the week:

"Keep true, never be ashamed of doing right; decide on what you think is right and stick to it." - George Eliot

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Construction on a ramp for the Office of Career Services has begun, but the ramp still needs final touches.

Elizabeth Purinton photo

News

S.C.C. releases case reports

The following is a compendium of actions that the Committee on Student Conduct took during the Fall Semester 1997:

■ September 24, 1997

Charge: Academic Dishonesty by virtue of plagiarizing two papers during the fall of 1995.

Outcome: Guilty

Penalty: Disciplinary probation until graduation with dismissal held in abeyance to go into effect should the student be found guilty of academic dishonesty by the Committee again. The Committee required counseling as determined by the Health Center and suggested discussion of the technicalities of source citation with the Writing Workshop.

■ October 8, 1997

Charge: Purchasing marijuana and other illegal drugs off-campus with the intent to sell some of these items to students at Bates.

Outcome: Guilty

Penalty: Suspension from school beginning

January 1998 for one semester and short term. The Committee requires that the student continue counseling on campus until the end of this semester according to a schedule to be determined by the Health Center, and that during the suspension the student must continue counseling and provide evidence of this counseling to the Dean of Students Office as a condition of return.

■ October 27, 1997

Charge: Harassing another student and violating an order from the dean to have no contact with the other student.

Outcome: Guilty

Penalty: Disciplinary probation until graduation with one year's suspension held in abeyance to go into effect should the student be found guilty again of unacceptable social behavior by the Committee. Further the Committee required the student to undergo counseling according to a schedule to be determined by the Health Center. And finally, the student was required to adhere to the restraining order of February 27, 1997.

Students' informal prof. evaluations to be available to student body

Continued from Page 1

two-fold. There are professors who have doubts about the idea, and those who support the plan. During the initial phase of the project, two professors offered the encouragement.

The two professors were unable to be reached for questions, as was the dean of faculty, Martha Crunkleton.

While professors have been hesitant to speak out, a few students were willing, given that their names be withheld.

"What if you get the one or two students who hate the class as opposed to the 90 percent who love it?" asked one student.

"It's a damn good idea!" said another student.

Another student voiced the concern

that "it would not serve any useful purpose because students' perceptions of a teacher are influenced by their opinions. If you're really curious about a course, you should talk to the professor. The decision that I ultimately make is my own."

Rios has also been warned that there could be negative feedback from a lot of professors about publishing students' comments about their teaching. Yet, she said that the document would simply be putting the oral tradition of sharing experiences into written words that would extend beyond simply the four years that a student is here.

Rios and Mortenson said they will collate the evaluations during Thanksgiving break. They will print all submissions anonymously and verbatim.

Bates to host World AIDS Day events in Dec.

On December 1, 2 and 3, Bates College will honor World AIDS Day and participate in many related events. The week is created and run by members of a political science group, the Lewiston/Auburn AIDS Coalition, Student Health Link, the Health Center, and various interested students.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, November 14

Students will gather in Chase Lounge to design posters for the upcoming events.

November 19-21

An information table will be set outside Commons with details of the week, as well as sexual protection pamphlets. Candles will be sold for \$1 to participate in the Lewiston/Auburn AIDS walk on December 1.

November 30

8 p.m. Students will gather to set up a wall display outside Chase Lounge. The display consists of names of people who have died of AIDS that Bates students, staff and faculty have contributed. Passages and pictures of AIDS victims will also be displayed. The wall, in its entirety, will resemble a quilt.

December 1

WORLD AIDS DAY

11:53 — 11:55 All Bates students, staff and faculty are asked to observe two minutes of silence for the people who have died of AIDS.

5 p.m. People from Lewiston/Auburn areas, as well as Bates students, staff and faculty,

will meet in the Chapel for refreshments.

6 p.m. The walk from the Chapel to St. Mary's hospital will begin. Lewiston/Auburn AIDS Coalition has a special night planned, complete with speakers, videos, live music, refreshments and children's art work.

December 2

Last year's *Let's Talk About AIDS* cast will perform a scene in the Ben Mays Center (Silo) and speak about the middle schoolers' reactions to their play. AIDS education problems will be addressed.

7 p.m. Olin 105. The movie *KIDS WILL BE SHOWN*.

10 — 12 p.m. There will be a coffeehouse in the Silo with students reading poetry, passages from books, playing music, offering personal stories, etc. *Call A'Lyn Ettien if interested in performing.*

December 3

7 — 9 p.m. Hirasawa Lounge. There will be an informal panel discussion with Bates students Joella Canales '00, Cody Weber '00 and Chelsea Dodson '00. They will offer their personal perspectives on AIDS. Dianna Kerrigan, the Lewiston/Auburn case manager, will also offer her perspective.

What can you do to help?

Contribute names, passages and pictures to Cody Weber (cweber).

Participate in the coffeehouse.

Come to the events — especially the walk!

Think no news is good news? We don't.

thebatesstudent@abacus.bates.edu

What's your idea? Tell us.

Student questions R.A. about Budget Committee selection process

By MATT EPSTEIN
Staff Writer

Despite a dispute about quorum, the RA unanimously approved the Budget Committee slate for the 1998-1999 academic year last Monday at its weekly meeting.

One of six committee positions was not filled.

The Budget Committee's slate, the people appointed to the committee and waiting to be approved, was also the source of a dispute between a student and the executive board. Keri Fox '98 voiced concern that not enough people were making the decision on who to appoint to the Budget Committee.

The RA constitution directs that the Committee on Committees and the treasurer select a slate which must then be approved by a majority of the assembly.

Because of scheduling conflicts, only the current treasurer and only three members of the committee were present. This makes four people conducting interviews, while only three voted. The fourth, the Chairman of the Committee, only votes in case of

a tie.

Keri Fox '98, an alternate member of the Committee on Committees, raised the complaint that a larger portion of the body should have been present to make the important decisions for the seating of the Budget Committee.

R.A. Vice President and Chairman of the Committee on Committees Seth Guthartz '99 said that there is no rule on quorum for the committee. Quorum is the ratio between total members and members present. While it varies for each organization, if the ratio is too low, quorum has not been met. In this case, there are not enough people to make a vote legitimate. Guthartz said that he had tried to get as many members of the committee as possible together.

It had become necessary for the selections to be made before the end of the semester, said Guthartz.

The urgency to seat the committee comes from the need to provide the organizations who are going through budget process with all the help and information they need.

The dispute over the budget Committee stands out because thus far it has invited the most heated discussion of the semester in the R.A.

Yet it was almost entirely between the

The singularity of this dispute could be taken as a sign of the membership's complacency in regard to the action of the executive board...

executive board and Fox.

Only one member, Jessica Brown '98,

spoke out from the floor, and she was one of the members of the Committee on Committees who had been unable to attend the selection meeting.

There has been almost no conflict among members of the RA except for the occasional procedural question, under which Fox's question falls.

The singularity of this dispute could be taken as a sign of the membership's complacency in regard to the action of the executive board, led by Liam Clarke '98. In contrast, the assembly body has raised no other major complaints this year.

No member, aside from the officers, has proposed a major piece of legislation. No one has stood up and spoken against a majority position. There has not been a negative vote cast on an issue this semester.

In addition to the Budget Committee, a host of other committees were seated this week, including the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, the Martin Luther King Celebration Committee, the Colby Bates Bowdoin Intercollegiate Cooperative Council.

The Needle: *Breaking the Bates Bubble*

Compiled By MATT BROMLEY
Staff Writer

Source: Translated from TF1 Infos website at:
<http://www.tf1.fr/cgi-bin/tf1/maj.cgi?infos&sommairefr.htm>

■ Iraq

The UN mission left Iraq last Friday without convincing Baghdad to return a decision on the expulsion of the American inspectors. At a press conference the Vice-Prime Minister Tarek Aziz was closed on his position regarding the interdiction of the American participation with inspections of the UN Commission charged with Iraqi disarmament. He also qualified as "unacceptable" the fly-bys of the American spy plane over Iraq.

■ China

China interrupted the course of the Yang-tse river last Saturday.

Finally beginning construction of a hydroelectric dam at the Three Gorges, the largest in the world, the course of the longest river in China has been interrupted.

The total cost of the project, 29 million dollars, must be finished in three years, so that the 26 turbines can be coupled by the year 2009.

■ Israel

Hundreds of thousands of people assembled last Saturday evening in Tel-Aviv in order to pay homage to the former Prime Minister of Israel. A meeting took place at the place where Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, November 4, 1995. The place could not contain the immense crowd who sported signs saying "Save Peace", and "We will not forget" as well as photos of the deceased.

Ceremonies organized in the memory of Yitzhak Rabin begun last Monday ended last Wednesday, November 12, the day of the anniversary of the assassination of Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin was assassinated November 4, 1995 at a rally for the Left in favor of the Tel-Aviv Peace Process. His assassin, the Right extremist Yigal Amir, was condemned last year to life in prison.

■ Congo

Liberation, last Saturday, of seven Russians and a Belgian. Between last Friday and Saturday seven French, four Russian pilots, and an assortment of Belgians were liberated. Five of the seven French were scheduled to return to Paris in the evening. The other two decided to stay in the Congo.

Three French citizens were arrested last October after the taking of the Black Point by the forces under the President of the Congo Sassou Nguesso. They were officially charged by new authorities in arms traffic.

In reality, their liberation makes possible mediation between the Angolese President José Eduardo dos Santos and President Jacques Chirac.

■ Portugal

Last Saturday a collision between two trains caused the death of six people and wounded 14 other passengers. The trains travel to the province of Algarve in the south of the country. The accident took place near Etombar. There could have been, depending on certain conditions, human error in the priority of the junction the two trains passed. The trains were carrying 60 passengers. One of the conductors was a victim, the other has been hospitalized.

■ Spain and Portugal

Massive rains and violent winds bombarded the Iberian Peninsula last Wednesday night.

At least 32 people are dead in Spain and Portugal.

Firemen, civil protection, police, and the army have been mobilized in order to give aid.

■ France/Britain

The President of France, Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, and five members of the government were in London for the 20th Franco-British summit.

Jacques Chirac arrived last Thursday at the Northolt Base and took tea with Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. The summit opened with a dinner at 10 Downing Street where Tony Blair welcomed

Jacques Chirac and Lionel Jospin.

Last Friday discussions were held in the new Docklands Quarter at Canary Wharf. The discussions were mainly on the subject of Nuclear cooperation.

The summit marked the first bilateral meeting since the arrival of Tony Blair at his post.

■ France

An explosive attack provoked important damage in the 10th arrondissement of Marseille last Sunday night.

An eight story building containing an import-export business was damaged by a plastic explosive charge of 300 grams. Many vehicles stationed around the building equally suffered from the force of the explosion. No people were injured.

■ Israel/Vatican

Signature of an accord between the Vatican and Israel.

This accord legalizes the statute of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. It was signed in Jerusalem by the Minister of Foreign Affairs David Levy and the Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Andréa Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo. The text remains to be ratified by the Israeli Parliament.

■ Vietnam

The typhoon Linda last week touched down on the Mékong, South Vietnam, Delta producing more than 500 deaths and near 1,500 missing.

This typhoon, the worst of the century for Vietnam, caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage in the heavily populated and rice-farming zone. In the Cà Mau region the authorities aided about 3,000 fishermen.

The Vietnamese government launched an international call for aid for victims of the typhoon. Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines have been solicited for aid. The UN, on its part, has given 225,000 dollars for the victims of Linda.

■ Corsica

Last Tuesday night, at a hotel in

Bonifacio in southern Corsica, the Torreano, was completely destroyed by an attack. No one was hurt. The gendarmes, alerted by telephone to the presence of suspect packages, finished evacuating and formed a security perimeter.

■ Italy

The Pope; victim of a cold.

Jean-Paul II did not give his speech at the Vatican in front of a general audience last Wednesday. The Pope has since appeared and is in relatively good health and smiled at 15,000 supporters assembled in the Great Hall.

For the Vatican it seems as if it is not the flu and is just a cold.

■ UN

Last Wednesday the members of the UN Security Council unanimously voted on Resolution 1137 which reinforces sanctions against Iraq and imposes restrictions on travel to responsible Iraqis. A resolution presented by nine countries: USA, Great Britain, Chili, Costa Rica, Poland, Sweden, Portugal, Korea, and Japan.

The UN equally reviewed "other measures" in case Baghdad does not return on the decision but does not explicitly mention a use of force.

The American President, Bill Clinton, was congratulated on the decision. On its part, Baghdad rejected these new sanctions and announced that they were going to expulse the American inspectors after the vote on the resolution. Last Thursday morning Iraq hindered, for the tenth time, the American Investigators and the UN disarmament team participating in inspections before expulsing them. A decision judged "totally unacceptable" by the White House.

"A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell and make you feel happy to be on your way."
— Anonymous

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Forum

Bates discourse lacks many viewpoints

Student examines dialogue, acceptance of points of view, and understanding at the college

By SHAWN P. O'LEARY
Forum Editor

The author of last week's anonymous submission was rather forthright with his reasoning for requesting anonymity: "... you would risk having your name publicly dragged through the mud. Risk being branded a homophobe. Or a racist. Or a sexist." Is this the egalitarian vision by which Bates operates, or the clouded and murky waters of discourse through which only the brave dare to communicate? Sadly, I fear it is the latter. I no longer question it, I have come to accept it.

Plain and simple, a rather large portion of the student body is down right afraid to speak out about anything that challenges the views of the vocal majority. On the very day that the anonymous submission was printed a student in one of my classes was asked to share his feelings on legislation designed to shelter specific groups of people. He declined, on two occasions, for fear of "getting in too much trouble." Obviously, he has strong feelings about the subject, but could not bring himself to share them.

*Is this the
egalitarian
vision by which
Bates operates,
or the clouded
and murky waters
of discourse
through which
only the brave dare
to communicate?*

I for one, empathize with such sentiments. I know the repercussions of publicly sharing views which are unpopular, and they these repercussions are not merely figments of one's imagination. Many of the responses to my editorials last year were very personal, and the rhetoric used within them often strayed far from the editorial content. Perhaps the worst case

was the time my mother called me after receiving her copy of the *Student* and asked that I stop writing. She called after reading a letter to the editor in which my writing was described as an act of oppression and compared to "rape, murder, degradation, and torture" as a means of silencing and suppressing the views of others. In retrospect, I agree that the column I wrote contained lan-

guage that threatened a particular student, but to insinuate that my writing was at par with such atrocious acts as rape, murder, and torture was unfair, to say the least.

Given such circumstances, why would anyone feel compelled to share opinions of the same nature as those given in last week's editorial? I asked one student, who made lucid and rational points regarding the Coming-Out Weekend controversy, to share his



Do forums such as these represent all views held at Bates?

Patrick Serengulian photo

views in an opinion piece, to which he replied, "I would sooner dive in front of a speeding locomotive."

Time and time again students who dare to voice an alternative opinion are branded with labels and stigmas, in effect attacking their character rather than their argument. Even when a view is extreme, it does more harm to suppress it rather than reveal it. If claims from all sides are not presented, one can lose the context of the argument and thereby invalidate the claim. Moreover, when those who do voice unpopular opinions are chastised for presenting them,

any attempt at reaching an understanding with that person are lost. Simply put, the key to productive discussions, forums with tangible results and making headway with sensitive issues is to recognize that all points should be presented without fear of public humiliation.

This is why I supported the publication of last week's anonymous editorial. Even though the author used his veil of anonymity as an opportunity to single out others who had the courage of their convictions, his opinions have generated tremendous interest and discussion. And after all, isn't that the point?

How Bates Rates

Registration Procrastinators



Students stage mass sit-in for second time this month — this time deans have the last laugh.

Renovated floor in Alumni Gym



Bates lengthens floor in Alumni gym to comply with NCAA post-season regulations, but imminent NESCAC vote may prevent Bates from ever hosting a game.

Monday Night Politics



Bowdoin has Mario Cuomo while Bates has Robert Greenstein, Sabrina Sojourner, and NESCAC post season debate.

Topless guys at Bates - Bowdoin Football Game



Hey - we should have given those guys their props last week.

Harvest Dinner boycott



Accessibility a great cause, but is boycott of Harvest Dinner best means?

Editorial

Make time to read this

Walking or driving down Lisbon Street at night, while not being the safest activity in the world, is illuminating at this time of year.

The dark street that is notorious for prostitution has been transformed into a Norman-Rockwell-esque scene by the warm glow of thousands of tiny holiday lights.

It's not even Thanksgiving, people!

Why do we do this to ourselves? One thing we all need in our lives is time to rest, to spend time with our families and friends, and to revitalize our minds and souls. Yet, instead of indicating a holiday season full of family, friends and relaxation, the beckoning lights of Lisbon Street remind us that time is ticking.

There are things to do, lists to make. What are you waiting for?! Only 41 more shopping days 'til Christmas!

But wait a second! We want more time but are never able to find or make it. Spending time on one thing comes at the expense of another.

We search for time-saving things. Computers are supposed to save time; drive-through everything is supposed to save time; day-planners are supposed to save time by helping us order it; catalog and online shopping is supposed to save time; home delivery is supposed to save time. So why are we still at the mercy of the clock?

The time we save being productive is the time we spend being productive. Five minutes saved here there adds up to an hour, so we spend our "extra" time cleaning the house, catching up on all our overdue homework, or revising our resumes at the OCS.

Why is it we can't take or make time for ourselves without feeling guilty? Personal reflection is crucial for maintaining balance in our lives. If we don't take care of ourselves, then that lack of care will show up in other ways — shoddy work, missed meetings, wrecked relationships, general grouching, depression, sickness — need we say more?

As the holiday season nears, time is at a premium. For some reason, friends and family seem to take more time than we expect, causing more stress than relief.

So do as we say, and not as we do: Waste a few hours on yourself. It'll be time well spent, we guess.

The Bates Student

Celebrating Our 125th Year — 1873-1998

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The Bates Student is published weekly by the students of Bates College when the College is in session. Editorials represent opinions of the editorial board. Views expressed in individual columns, features and letters are those solely of the author.

As the section name suggests, the opinion pages of The Student are intended to be an open forum for the Bates community. To this end, we invite members of the community to contribute to it.

Letters to the Editor must be received on Wednesday at 7 p.m. if they are to be considered for publication in the next issue on Friday. All letters must be signed, but under special circumstances the newspaper may withhold names upon request. People may deliver single-spaced, typed letters to 224 Chase Hall, or mail them to The Bates Student, 309 Bates College, Lewiston, ME 04240. They may also submit letters on a 3.5-inch computer disk, or by e-mail to soleary@abacus.bates.edu.

The Bates Student reserves the right not to print letters and to edit letters for length and clarity.

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Subscription rates are \$25 for the academic year, or \$15 per semester. Checks should be made payable to The Bates Student.

Students to boycott Harvest Dinner

To the Editor,

I think you guys know how I feel about handicapped accessibility at Bates, so I won't go through all of it again. But, over and over again, the school has told me there isn't enough money to build ramps (and I'm sure they've said the same thing to others who represent important interests.) Yet, when the school wants to spend money to show off a little, it seems easy to find. A group of students (led by Dave Lieber, Mike Ferrari, Liam Clarke, and some others) has come up with the idea of boycotting Harvest Dinner in order to draw attention to where the school chooses to spend its money. (The idea is not to get rid of Harvest Dinner—it is an important community-building event—but rather to scale back the expenses and use them elsewhere. I do not think that this will take away from the community effect of the dinner.) By boycott we don't mean a crazy protest. We will most likely be outside Chase Hall handing out fact-sheets about how inaccessible the campus is, and how much money the school spends on things like Harvest Dinner. There will be a petition to sign for those who want to recognize that the school could spend its money better elsewhere, but don't want to be involved outside Chase. This is about INFORMING, NOT INTIMIDATING. There will also be food for those of us not going to the Dinner. Dave has already talked with Bob Volpi and will be talking to the Commons workers to make sure they know that this is in no way an insult to them, and that their talents are certainly very appreciated.

I think that this is a good idea. (And I've thought about it a lot.)

There is nothing wrong with students challenging the way the school spends their tuition. With ALL the things Bates needs (This is about more than just ramps!), do we really need to spend money on extravagances? Some might think that there are less dramatic ways to get the point across, and to that I'd like to say a few things. First, I've met with President Harward over the past

few years and have told him the very same things that I wrote in my recent article, but I only got a real response for change when I went public. The President has admitted a change in his philosophy toward what needs to be accessible (from simple ADA compliance to something more in-line with the egalitarian principles of the school), but there is still the money problem. It took me three years to realize that I had to go public in order to change the President's philosophy, now we need to change the way the school spends its money in order to make that philosophy a reality. Talk is cheap; and ramps cost money. Finally, I want to make this public to get other people to think about the way the school spends its money. This is not meant to make anyone feel uncomfortable if they want to go to Harvest Dinner. (If they want to go, I have no problem with that.) This is simply to raise awareness. I must admit that I am afraid that accessibility will fall to the background if there is no one aware enough to push for it. Originally I did not want to be heavily involved in this because I was afraid that might make people uncomfortable. But it seems inevitable I will be involved. However, this about more than ramps, or even accessibility in general; it's about where the school chooses to spend its money and where it doesn't.

I could say a lot more on this issue, but don't want to make this too long. I'm writing this to inform anyone who might be interested. I

certainly don't want to make any of you uncomfortable and thought that this was the best way to spread the word without pressuring people. If you are interested in helping (or just voicing an opinion, positive or negative) please feel free to contact me (at x7874, or @sdraper) or Dave (at x7633, or @dlieber). We are very interested in what people have to say about this.

Sincerely,
Shawn Draper '98

Professor ponders acceptability of apologies

To the Editor,

I am very distressed by the atmosphere that has emerged recently at this college. The latest incident — the events surrounding the erasures and removal of "coming out weekend" material — is the most distressing of all. Granted, certain administrative decisions were mistakes, but immediate apologies and valiant attempts to ensure that what was removed was restored were forthcoming. The Dean of Students Office apologized, and then Celeste Branham apologized a second time and a third time and sincerely and completely. For some those apologies were not acceptable.

Since when has a sincere apology not been acceptable? Apology has been one of the few successful mechanisms for reconciliation in some of the world's most protracted ethnic conflicts, but apparently it is not acceptable at Bates. Since when has it been permissible to harangue and show total disrespect for anyone at Bates, but especially for a woman who has been at the forefront of the fight against hate and intolerance in this city, in this state, and at this college — more effectively at the forefront, I would argue, than any others of us at Bates College? And what distresses me most of all is that this disre-

spect seems to have gone unchallenged. There are standards of decency and respect that the confronters demand but seem unwilling to return. If the students are unaware of Celeste's untiring efforts in the cause of social justice, they should be informed.

In my opinion, it is time for the faculty to take an active role in promoting tolerance,

*Since when
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acceptable?*

understanding, respect, and open lines of communication. We are the models and the majority of the students look to us for guidance; that's why we are here; that's why they are here. We try to instill the qualities of intellectual

curiosity, of initiative, of sharing, of caring for one another. That is what a liberal arts education is all about. If we permit an atmosphere of acrimony, of mistrust, of unwillingness to listen and keep an open mind to pervade the campus, much of our educational effort will have been wasted. We cannot allow this to happen.

Students deserve respect. Faculty and staff deserve respect. People who make mistakes, especially those who apologize, deserve respect. They have mine.

Sincerely,
Dick Wagner

Editor's Note: Professor Wagner's letter was submitted three weeks prior to the date of publication.

Letters to the Editor

Coming Out Weekend controversy continues to spark discussion

To the Editor:

I write to *The Bates Student* in response to the anonymous editorial printed in the November 7, 1997 issue.

First, I feel that I should qualify my statements by saying that my views on the entire situation regarding the Coming Out Weekend incidences are decidedly in opposition with the author's; I helped restore the quad display, I refuse to believe that its removal was the mere result of "administrative miscommunications." I feel that the administration's decision to remove it does constitute some form of institutionalized homophobia or at least reflects a stigmatization of expression apparent at Bates, and I proudly participated in the Lane Hall sit-in formed in response to the deans' actions regarding the quad display. Having laid that out, let me say that I find some of the author's points about silence and fear valid, or at least potentially valid. His overall argument, however, is tainted by his general misunderstanding of the Coalition's charges, his cowardice in not signing his letter, and his infantile, ill-humored, condescending, inappropriate and even hateful remarks towards faculty members, students, and the situation in general.

It is my understanding that the Coalition of Angry Students did not necessarily charge the administration with a premeditated, pre-organized "conspiracy" against the GLBA (and other groups involved with installing the quad display) as the author suggests. They rather, and rightly, charged them with making certain administrative decisions that were inconsistent with college policy, based upon so-called "oral policies" that are inconsistently and selectively enforced, and influenced by the content of the display. Hence, the charge was that the administration made unfair, unprecedented decisions based subjectively upon the queer content of the display which yielded a homophobic and silencing message. Furthermore, the forums that I attended never labeled the maintenance crew homophobic as the author states. In fact, the maintenance crew's call to work at 3:30 am (which was supervised by a gay employee who was forced to remove the display intended to empower him/her) was used to perpetuate the Coalition's argument about the irrational and content-based decisions on behalf of the administration.

The author's use of cheap jokes and flippant cracks locates his argument in disrespect, condescension, and a will to trivialize rather than criticize. These notions are codified by the author's anonymity; he uses the article to insult and offend Professor Charles "Chuck" Nero and Dean "F." Celeste Branham, as well as the sensibilities and concerns of his fellow students. In this

regard, it seems as though the author chooses anonymity not because he is afraid of "being branded a homophobe," but rather because it affords him the opportunity to mouth off without personal consequence (and, incidentally, to do so without personal conviction or integrity for those ideas which fuel his wise-cracks).

The author talks of a social phenomenon among members of the Bates community in which they are afraid to speak their minds in fear of being labeled and chastised "a homophobe, or a racist, or a sexist." He says that Bates is too politically correct to foster open communication and fluid voice among those who live and work within the College. Politically correct, for some, means politically feeble; to this end, the author has a point. What good is it to break down walls when we have built new ones behind them? Politically correct euphemisms will get us nowhere, contrived tolerance is meaningless,

and the resentment it creates nourishes more hate and disparity. If we, both within the Bates Bubble and outside it, sincerely commit to contextualized communication about our differences, because of our differences, and in spite of our differences, it is not always going to be an easy, harmonic task. Lasting change

takes brutal truth and real discussion, brutal truth and real discussion are not painless—and they are not PC. These ideas are far from new and hardly original. Yet, it is with these notions that the author fails to make a vital connection; this entire situation is about silence. This situation revolves around the silence he says ensues in fear of political incorrectness, the silencing message the administration's actions sent to students upon removal of the quad display, and the silence felt on a daily basis by queer students which prompted the display in the first place. It is more than unfortunate that the author failed to make these connections. For not only does it show an ineptitude to examine the situation critically, but also a failure to examine it compassionately; the author fails to bridge the silence of the "mainstream" (for the author seems to emphasize that he is "a white male heterosexual student") with the silence of the "minority." And in so doing, he sadly overlooks the complex ways in which they relate, and must relate, if we are to combat silence on this campus.

I invite the author to contact me so that we might carry out a frank, non-labeling discussion about the issues at hand. Silence will get neither of us anywhere. Ironically, I am tempted to leave you, student X, with a fitting phrase generously used in the Coming Out Weekend quad display: come out, come out, wherever you are.

Sincerely,
Jason Goldman '00

*I invite the author
to contact me
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discussion about
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at hand.*

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the letter written by "A Student." I am disappointed that *The Student* broke your policy of not publishing the name of the author to go along with an article. While the writer may not be homophobic, he certainly is unbelievably ignorant. If he had asked anyone associated with the Coalition I am sure that they would have been more than happy to discuss any concerns that someone may have had with the Coalition's goals or actions (at least I would be).

One of these would have been that the GLBA is not the one that organized this. This was the action of a coalition of students that resulted from a group action project in one of the classes we were taking. This is insulting to everyone involved that it was only the GLBA that was doing this. This makes it seem like we could have done this without the tremendous support the Coalition received with people wanting to donate significant amounts of time to help in this fight.

I will try to address all the issues that were expressed in the letter not just for the anonymous author but for anyone else who had problems with the actions of the Coalition during the past month. In reference to the forum's talking about individual instead of institutional homophobia doesn't the self identified heterosexual white male think that there is a point where a trend is developed that has been reinforced by Bates? This trend is that homophobia is big on this campus and each time something happens there is a letter sent out saying how bad it is and that Bates doesn't condone homophobia etc. In the past nothing of substance has ever happened. Even when there was a blatant homophobic action last year by calling a gay person a "faggot" all the attacker had to do was write an apology letter. That is not a harsh sentence. That would barely even qualify as a slap on the wrist. Through these actions Bates has enabled these actions to keep on occurring and reinforcing them.

The writer is very mistaken about the blue slip and the events leading up to the chalking and it's removal. How do I know that I am correct while the writer of last week's column is wrong? I am the one that obtained the blueslip. The administration did not have the details of what was going to be done. I didn't say anything since I have seen chalking on the quad in the past. I didn't know about an ORAL policy that had never been told to me or had seen acted on. For the description of the event I put down "display." The administration did not ask about what would be in the display. There was no warning about what could and could not be included in the display.

I also take exception with calling the maintenance workers homophobic. This could not be further from the truth. This just goes to show just how ignorant some people on this campus really are surrounding the events of the last month. They had to do their jobs. Did the anonymous student realize that one of the people who had to take down the display is gay and a member of the GLBA? I don't think so. The writer of this letter might have known this if the person had attended some

of the Coming Out Weekend activities and went to the ensuing forums.

Security did know what was going on with the display. Security had the names of two of the people that were chalking that night. The reason security had those names was because of a hate crime being committed against the chalkers by residents of Frye Street (contrary to rumor not Pierce house). There were various posters up around campus advertising this display and who was putting this on. Even if they had absolutely no idea who did the display if the administration thought for a minute they could have taken a guess at who would be putting this on. They would have been wrong because New World Coalition sponsored this but GLBA members (myself included) knew what was happening. The administration did not allow the campus to be rechalked but since it is only an oral policy the other students couldn't have known about this policy.

If I am thinking about the same instance the writer is, the woman who stated that she felt deceived was referring to how Bates is supposed to be this bastion of tolerance and diversity. This is even said in the viewbook. This is not the way this campus is.

I also take exception with the writer's attack of Professor Nero. That was a cheap shot. Prof. Nero was relating what the coalition was feeling to something that everyone would understand. Even if one doesn't agree with

him one should treat him with respect and not call him "Chuck."

One thing that should be made clear is that this whole incident had absolutely nothing to do with Dean Branham's personal beliefs. When she ordered the display taken down she was acting for the institution and not in her own interests. People did defend Dean Branham. People who I talked to made it clear that Dean Branham is not a homophobic person and cited all the things that she has done for queer rights. Dean Crunkleton did defend her in the first forum. She said that she has not had problems with Dean Branham acting or saying inappropriate things.

No one can say definitively what the reaction to criticism of the Coalition would be. Up until last week I hadn't heard of any public complaints besides the way that Dean Branham was treated. Unless I am sadly mistaken I don't think anyone has called John Connors homophobic because of his letter last week criticizing the Coalition. I don't agree with his viewpoint but I respect his opinions and that fact that he had enough guts to actually use his own name to stand up to his statements. Unlike the previous anonymous writer of the previous editorial I will leave my name, number, and e-mail so that if people disagree with what I am saying that we can discuss these issues in person instead of writing letters to the editor. Sincerely,

Bryan W. Loveland '99
E-mail: blovelan
Phone: 777-7803 (on)

To the editor,

Sounds like Bates also needs some sensitivity training on homosexuality for some Bobcats who've long ago left the litter, notably Bob "Look! Catty quotation marks!" Kolovson '53 (letter to the editor, 11/5/97)

My dear Mr. Kolovson — sir — I like a good rant as much as the next fellow, but a word to the wise from one of those "ill-mannered pipsqueaks" you condemn: Next time, try to choose a subject that doesn't incriminate you so convincingly as an unsympathetic bigot.

Voicing a heartfelt opinion — whether or not ones demands are absolutely reason-

able — is hardly synonymous with drunken destruction, as you implied your letter.

Please exercise better judgement before you next unleash a sermon on behalf of the Old Boys' society. It will save you from additional bratty letters from upstart alum, who want to reassure Bates students that the fact that we've graduated doesn't necessarily mean we've turned into complete bastards.

Regards,
Gabe Fried '96

Former professor discusses labels and prejudice

To the Editor,

While not a believer in Correspondence, coincidence has always intrigued me. As when, the same day I read the judgmental art review by Tania Ralli in the October 31 issue of "The Student", I came across this quotation from the letters of Anton Chekhov:

I am neither liberal, nor conservatist, nor gradualist, nor monk, nor indifferentist. I would like to be a free artist and nothing else... Pharisaism, dullwittedness, and tyranny reign not only in merchants' homes and police sta-

tions. I see them in science, in literature, among the younger generation. That is why I cultivate no particular predilection for policeman, butchers, scientists, writers or the younger generation. I look upon tags and labels as prejudices.

We may be sure he meant all tags and labels, no matter by whom or to whom applied.

Sincerely,
Robert M. Chute
Professor Emeritus of Biology

Letters to the Editor

Alum critiques "The Student" Writer calls for accessibility

To the Editor:

What follows are some general comments about this year's "The Bates Student", with specific references to last week's issue.

Why do the editors of "The Bates Student" choose to editorialize in articles which an unsuspecting reader might assume to be objectively reported? When I read the campus newspaper, I want and expect to read about campus news. I don't expect to have the news evaluated for me - I'll do that myself after I read the facts. Editorials belong on the Editorial Page. If you need to devote 2,4,6... pages to editorials, that's fine - just make sure to label them as such.

Why publish an unsigned letter to the editor? And why provide a header deeming it satirical? Make people accountable for their thoughts and words, and confine commentary to your editorials. Further, why publish a letter from an alum who is clearly uninformed about recent events on campus? A letter spouting closed-minded rage doesn't provide anything constructive to the current campus debate. You may use your discretion to decide which letters to publish, but you must not let one sensationalized letter from an alum from another era and one from a student who is too juvenile to sign his name to his words serve as the only opposing viewpoints to your own.

What is the purpose of the boxed statement on page 7? "The Bates Student" is not intended to be a pr/marketing tool for prospective students or recruits." Does this statement contain an underlying premise? Write an article if there is something the community ought to be aware of.

Why is there a preponderance of coverage of issues towards which the editors are obviously sympathetic? Is the issue of the social justice gened requirement the only issue on campus these days? While issues pertaining to curricular development are always important, understand that not everyone at Bates believes in a social justice requirement, and give press to campus controver-

sies and events which others may feel equally passionate about.

Here are a few campus events, and one controversy which may have warranted your attention: Mark Meadows '98 and Lien Le '99 were profiled in this week's issue of Time magazine. Why no coverage? A follow-up to introduce Mark and Lien to the campus at large, as well as a discussion and/or analysis of the issues which surround the Time article, might have been interesting for your readers.

Chemistry professor Tom Wenzel was recently named Maine Professor of the Year. Tina Iyer wrote a fine article, but why was it buried on page 11? Is this not front page news?

Justin Freeman '98, was crowned NESCAC Champion in men's cross country. Justin is currently the best runner in the New England Small College Athletic Conference. The BEST.

A reporter from "The San Francisco Chronicle" recently spent the day on campus. Why was he here? What are the issues surrounding the article he is working on? How does Bates fit in?

The women's soccer team hosted Colby in the first round of the NCAA tournament. This could have made for an interesting, timely story on the current NESCAC/NCAA debate. Why were there no reporters interviewing fans and players, professors and administrators, both during and after the game? Interviews of Colby students might have introduced some new viewpoints to this discussion.

Please don't cast my views aside as being those of an administrator who is interested in a public relations tool. I am an alum and concerned campus citizen who simply desires a well-written, thoroughly researched, objectively reported newspaper which delivers more than a narrow slice of the Bates pie.

Sincerely,
Reese Madden '93

To the Editor,

As I think about the petitions, protests, and sit ins I've seen over my years here, common themes keep surfacing. Themes of safety, accessibility, acceptance, and other basic rights. These issues are not exclusionary. I'd like to focus on one issue in this letter with the understanding that it is not separate from so many others.

All of us have challenges in our lives. Some of us have disabilities — challenges that require us to make adaptations and find alternatives to do everyday things that many people take for granted, like reading this article, getting into a building, or taking notes in class. These challenges may be obvious, like a blind person walking with a cane, or hidden, like a learning disability. I can call these things disabilities, challenges, or special needs — the point is that

these differences may need accommodations in order to make Bates a safe and accessible community. Shouldn't safety and accessibility be priorities? If we don't have these as the basis of our community, what do we have?

I have been fortunate and pleased with how Bates has accommodated my needs. Chronic pain makes daily tasks like note taking and sitting challenges. Health Center Staff, the Dean of Students Office, Physical Plant and others have been supportive and help me make accommodations. I came here knowing what I needed and what Bates could offer me. This is not always the case and I question if I am the norm or the exception. I was once again reminded of the lack of accessibility when I tried to find a meeting place for a support group I plan to facilitate. I am looking for a confidential, comfortable

space that is wheelchair accessible. Didn't seem like too much to ask. I quickly learned that ramps are not the only thing I should be considering. Just because a building has a ramp doesn't mean it is accessible. What about rest rooms, hallways, doorways? Even though I have a physical disability, it was easy for me not to think about these things. Others do not have this luxury. I have found some options, but I am still discouraged by the limited number of places that fit the accessibility requirement.

Now the big question: What about funding? Money is often quoted as the major obstacle. But is it? How come we seem to find money for things that are deemed important like fancy wine and dine events, bringing expensive speakers to campus, and entertainment? As members of this community, we need to decide not just

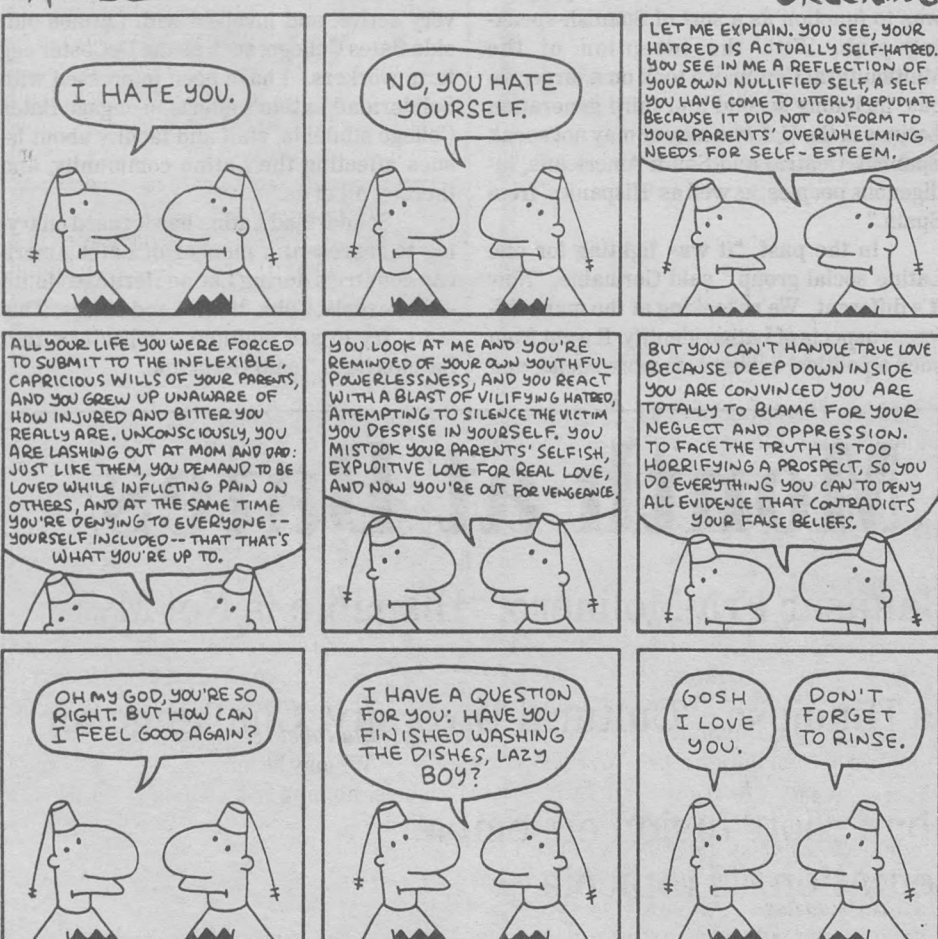
what to spend our money on, but *how much* and *when*. I've heard people say, "I'll support this if you can tell me the money won't come from X department or activity." It shouldn't be this tug of between issues, organizations, or departments. Yes, there is a budget and yes there are limited funds, but look around. There is money, time, and energy to make things happen *if* and *when* we decide what is important and challenge the "limitations" and constraints. I believe the safety and accessibility of the students, staff, and faculty should be a #1 priority. As a community we must decide what is acceptable and just in accommodating people's basic needs.

Sincerely,
Tracy Gregoire '98

*As a community
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and just
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people's
basic needs.*

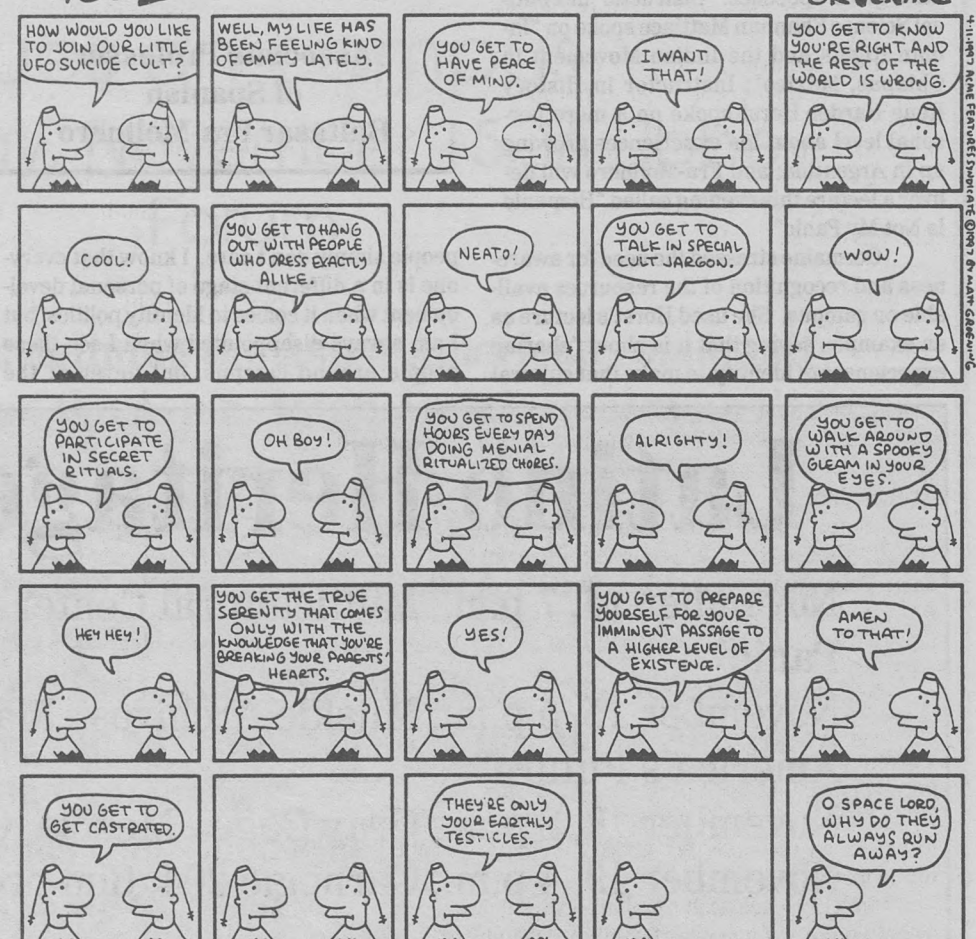
The next issue of the Bates Student will be published on Jan. 16, 1998.

LIFE IN HELL



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Features

Students, faculty celebrate Latino Heritage Solidaridad Latina focuses on raising awareness, building solidarity

By TINA IYER
Features Editor

Members of Solidaridad Latina are celebrating National Latino Heritage month with a variety of films, speakers and performances.

Working around the semester schedule, the organization's organizers said that the "month" will span more than 31 days, accommodating the semester calendar. Events commenced October 15 and will end on November 19.

In addition, "National Latino Heritage Month is celebrated at different times [of the year] at different colleges," said Cali Mortenson '98, co-coordinator of Solidaridad Latina.

"The purpose of Solidaridad Latina is two-fold. First, it is support for Latino students, staff and faculty on this campus. Second, it is public education to raise awareness about issues that affect us. Latino Heritage Month is the one time of the year when we put all of our efforts into public education," Mortenson. Mortenson and Mya Germaine '98 are the co-coordinators of Solidaridad Latina.

For Associate Professor of Spanish Baltasar Fra-Molinero, National Latino Heritage Month has a multifaceted importance for the campus.

"Celebration is an essential part of our lives," he said in an e-mail. "We are happy with who we are. We tell people, and ourselves, what it is that constitutes who we are."

"Celebration is not an uncritical activity," said Fra-Molinero. "It is an occasion to think, reflect and exchange ideas about the meaning of being Hispanic. Latino, Chicano, Latin American, Afrohispanic, a Spaniard, speaking Spanish, speaking Spanglish, and many more wonders ... Solidarity exists with awareness."

The seven-year old organization has made a conscious effort to utilize Bates resources during National Latino Heritage Month.

Members of the faculty, for example, have given speeches. Instructor in Political Science Shannan Mattiace spoke on "Indian Rights and the Indian Movement in Chiapas, Mexico"; Instructor in History Rene Harder Horst spoke on a more personal level about his experiences growing up in Argentina; and Fra-Molinero will deliver a lecture this evening called "Hispanic Is Not My Panic".

Germaine stressed the need for awareness and recognition of the resources available on campus. She used Horst's lecture as an example, saying that it is about "sharing experiences of identity, to make that cultural

connection. It is to help students with cultural awareness, Latinos especially," she said.

Mattiace considered her own lecture significant because "Pan-Indian movements throughout the Americas are relevant to all of us because they pose important questions about the use of ethnicity and race as a basis for collective action," she wrote in an e-mail. "All those interested in issues of power and resistance could potentially be interested in Indian politics ... Indian politics, however, also challenges Latinos and non-Latinos alike to look at the ways in which Indians have been marginalized both by those within and outside national borders."

Fra-Molinero, explaining the title of his lecture, said he wanted to "play with the word Hispanic." He also said that his talk will focus on his own personal experiences as "a person born in Spain who lives in the United States, teaches Spanish and has to address issues of identity that are extremely complex but fascinating. Many Spaniards who come to this country these days have to resolve the identity crisis posed by this society on all sorts of newcomers. As a Spaniard, am I European? Am I Hispanic? Is my accent right? Am I white?"

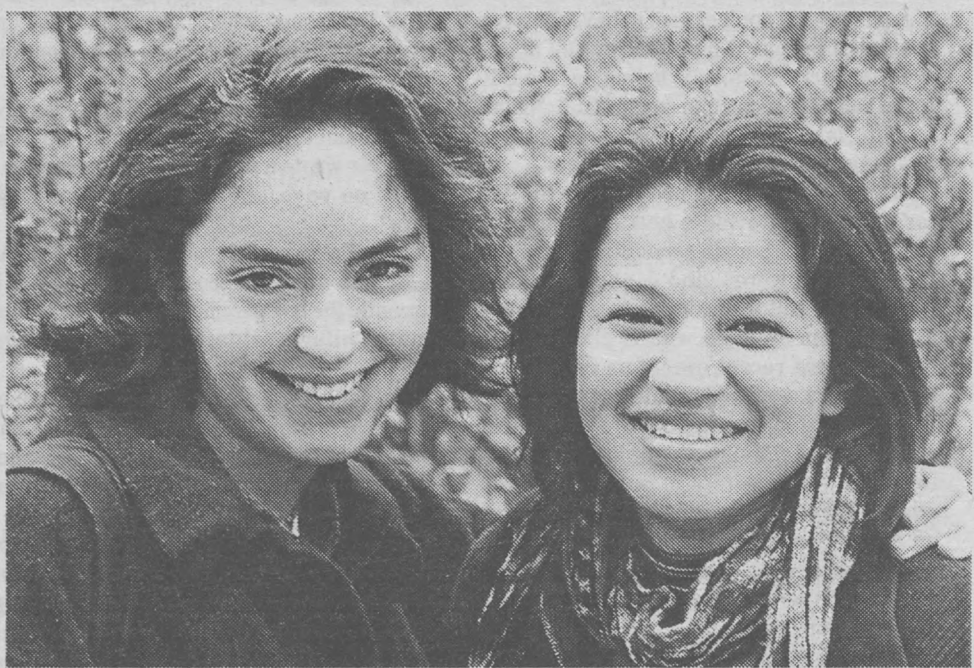
There are currently about 40 students on campus who identify themselves as Latino, according to Germaine. "We would really love to encourage Latinos on campus to explore us as an organization because we feel like they have something to contribute as individuals," said Germaine.

"Many people who check the 'Hispanic' box on their applications aren't willing to define themselves to the public as Latino for a wide variety of reasons," Mortenson said. "These [reasons] may be very personal; they may be painful. Some people see it only as a matter of bloodlines and not heritage. Some

"Celebration is not an uncritical activity."

Associate Professor
of Spanish
Baltasar Fra-Molinero

people simply don't care. I know that everyone is in a different stage of personal development when it comes to identity politics, but I am always disappointed when I see these people around campus, but never at the



Cali Mortenson '98 and Mya Germaine '98, co-coordinators of Solidaridad Latina.

Patrick Serengulian photo

Solidaridad Latina meetings or events."

Germaine explained that this has led Solidaridad Latina to try to "change face," to try to discover what the organization isn't able to provide for these Latinos who do not come to the meetings, and what can be done to make Solidaridad Latina more inclusive. "We are currently working on trying to build solidarity in the community through more informal support events like group dinners and movies," Mortenson said.

"One of the most unique things about Solidaridad Latina is our diversity, which is something that I don't think people recognize. There is a diverse community within our own active membership," said Germaine.

The organization is comprised of biracial students (Latino and some other heritage), foreign students (who are from Latin America), and students who are of no Latino descent whatsoever.

Solidaridad Latina has evolved since its inception. Said Mortenson, "Solidaridad Latina was originally the Iberian-American club, whose main purpose was to function as a sort of Spanish-speaking club. With the inception of the Multicultural Center, we took on a larger focus, including second and third generation Latinos in the U.S who may or may not speak Spanish, Central and South Americans, indigenous peoples, as well as 'Hispanics' from Spain."

In the past, "it was fighting for one Latino social group," said Germaine, "Now it's different. We're looking at the many different aspects of Latino identity. It went from such a political extreme, to more social, and

now its cultural developing as well as still its maintaining its political tendencies."

At the same time, Mortenson emphasizes the importance of a political focus. "While of course these [social and cultural activities] are important to us as Latinos, we feel that it is important that we be part of the struggle for social justice," Mortenson said.

Another issue important to the Solidaridad Latino is the lack of institutional recognition of Latinos and their heritage. "There is a huge gap in cultural studies that is not fairly recognized," said Germaine, who also noted that while Bates aims to increase its diversity, "it is natural that these [recruited] students are going to be interested [in classes] in their own backgrounds, not just the courses that cater to the mainstream population at Bates."

Although Mattiace acknowledges that she has not been at Bates long enough to have a clear idea of how the college responds to the needs of Latino students, she said, "The Latino students themselves, however, are very active, and involved with Latinos outside Bates College, such as the DeCoster egg farm workers. I have been impressed with Solidaridad Latino's efforts to engage Bates College students, staff and faculty about issues affecting the Latino community, and thereby, all of us."

Solidaridad Latina has focused on trying to represent a number of Latin American countries during Latino Heritage Month — Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico and others. This is to "try to see multiple perspectives that Latinos have," said Germaine.

Latino Heritage Month at Bates

November 14, 7 p.m., Multicultural Center - Baltasar Fra-Molinero, "Hispanic Is Not My Panic"

November 15, 5 p.m., Muskie Archives - Maria Hinojosa, "Cultural Diversity: Challenge for America's Future"

November 18, 8 p.m., Gray Cage - Mezcla, Cuban roots fusion ensemble

November 19, 4 p.m., Carnegie 204, film presentation, "Tropicola"

Lunch at Austin's

Dan Ludden talks over turkey (How timely!)

By SHAWN P. O'LEARY
Forum Editor

As Dan Ludden, assistant dean of students, sat down to his turkey sandwich (smothered in veggies) and Arizona Iced Tea, he appeared rather pensive and reflective. Ludden admitted that the bulk of our conversation would be devoted to discussing his music since his mentor, Margaret Harshaw, had recently passed away. Harshaw, whom Ludden credited with teaching him "lessons on ethics, morals, and introspection," was a singer at the Metropolitan Opera and Ludden's voice instructor in graduate school at the University of Indiana.

Ludden explained that when he first came to Bates he intended to major in political science and eventually enter law school. It was during his sophomore year that Ludden decided that he was meant to study music. He began studying every Saturday at the Boston Conservatory, which Ludden described as, "putting a serious crimp in his social life." This attraction to music and performance, however, first began when his parents took him to an opera at the age of six.

Currently Ludden is performing with the Choral Arts Society which performs with the Portland Symphony, and is working with them on a holiday concert. The group also does church performances on a relatively regular basis. Of performing music Ludden said, "To do it full out you have to dedicate a lot of time." On the Bates scene, Ludden says that plans are in the works for what will now become an annual performance with Dean of Students F. Celeste Branham.

After performing for a few years out of graduate school, Ludden decided that constant travelling and "living out of a suitcase" was too exhausting. He decided to move to Boston and search for a career. Shortly thereafter his partner was transferred to Yarmouth and the two moved to Maine. It was at this time that Ludden placed a call to a friend of his at Bates, whom at the time was the housing coordinator. He was excited to learn that she was soon to transfer into another department of the college and her

position would be available.

Ludden was first appointed to the position on an interim basis, and was later hired with a permanent status. He says that he loved the work, but that it could also be exhausting. Of being the housing coordinator Ludden said, "It can really wear you down. You only deal with problems. There is a very high, possibly impossibly high, expectation for a solution of all problems. It is all part of paying your dues, which I did."

I asked Ludden to talk about life in the dean of students office and he described it as very fulfilling because he loves to work with young people. He also enjoys avoiding the monotony of working according to a calendar; the anticipation of going to work on a Monday morning not knowing exactly what is on his agenda for the day is not something that Ludden minds.

"If you get beyond the service aspect of the position," Ludden explained, "there is a sense that you are helping people grow, understand and move beyond Bates."

Ludden described the Dean of Students office as an amazing machine. "It's all consensus driven," said Ludden, "no one rules from above."

He claims that he has always felt as though he were a part of policy decisions, even in his days as housing coordinator. "I have learned a lot as a young professional. Housing coordinators at other schools are not involved in policy decisions. They are at Bates."

Ludden also says that it is amazing to his friends that the deans staff socializes with each other regularly. He continued by saying, "It is still surprising to many people that I can attend a movie or have dinner with the 'hated deans staff'."

Ludden has recently been given the duties of monitoring first-year life at Bates in a more extended role than do other deans. He described the role as a "bit of a challenge" because Bates is not nearly as class structured as other schools.

One of his programs is that of the First Year Council, whereby first year students take a more active role in developing their



Assistant Dean of Students Dan Ludden.

Shawn P. O'Leary photo

first year experience by making decisions about activities and events designed specifically for them. Ludden emphasized that there is a need for caution with such programs because he says that Bates must avoid separating out first year students from others, as to prevent the fraternity type atmosphere from developing.

Ludden says that he couldn't imagine being anywhere else but Maine, as it is "a

great place to live and work." If he were to take another career it would be to return to performance, as he now feels that he has the "life experience and maturity it would take for life on the road." He also added that he wouldn't mind a teaching career.

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Your New Year's Resolution:

Write for Features.

Thank you to the 700 students who participated in the Oxfam Fast and to Dining Services for their support!

The Bates
Multifath Council

Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby discuss Asian/Asian-American issues on campus on Saturday, November 15, in Libbey Forum

Issue to be discussed: defining the Asian-American community and ways to strengthen the Asian/Asian-American community on campus.

10 - 11 a.m.: Ninotchka Rosca, keynote speaker on

"Coming Together: Defining the Asian-American Community"

11 - 11:30 a.m.: The Human Knot

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Professor Timothy Chin, Dong Nguyen, and Professor Feng Liu on "Strengthening the Asian-American Community On-Campus"

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.: Lunch from Chopsticks and Thai Palace

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.: Wrap-up discussion

The Arts

Battle of wills: Bates stages "Antigone"

By SARA MILSTEIN
Staff Writer

"Antigone" begins dramatically: first the audience is introduced to the bizarre, complex stage. Next the drummer, Ethan Miller '00, stirs up the intensity with a heartbeat-based rhythm (a key element of the play). The lights dim, and the sexy Queen Euridice struts up the stairs. As the play unfolds, some of these elements are lost, some are magnified, and some gain too much importance. Overall, though, the actors do an excellent job in responding to their costumes, the drumming, the lighting, and, of course, each other.

"Antigone" portrays the conflict between a passionate young woman and a proud king and their clash or irreconcilable moral commitments. The action of "Antigone"—one of three plays about the House of Oedipus—begins the day following a battle for control of Thebes between Oedipus' two sons, Eteocles and Polyneices. Both are killed in a fight for the throne, leaving their uncle, Creon, to rule Thebes. Creon declares that Eteocles will have a hero's funeral, while the traitorous Polyneices will lie unburied and dishonored. Antigone, sister of the dead warriors, defies her uncle's edit and buries her brother, setting off a chain of consequences that leads to her own death and Creon's downfall.

Antigone is one strong woman. She manages to defy the state as well as the submissive role she is expected to uphold as a female. The role of Antigone is a difficult role to play because of its complexity. She is part hero, part sympathizer, and part victim.

Danielle Perry '98 does a superb job capturing the essence of Antigone. With care-



Dan Gavin '00

Patrick Serengulian photo

ful facial control, Perry uses her eyes and lips to communicate her emotions and give body to her words. Her responses to Creon, played by Jay Pringle '98, convey careful alertness.

To play Creon requires character development during the play as well as beforehand. A build up of emotions must come from the core of his actual emotions, and must be kept under tight rein at all times.

Jay Pringle does Creon a tremendous amount of justice. Creon mostly appears to be a heartless robot of the state, until he finally feels ultimate sorrow when his family dies. Pringle commands full attention on stage, especially during his skillfully executed silences. Clearly Pringle is thinking

the entire time; like a sponge, he soaks in his environment. His cane and limp, at first awkward, later become moving as he turns into a heartbroken man. The play as a whole demands a lot of Creon and its other characters because it demands the actors' ability to transform our perceptions of the character.

Teiresias, the blind seer played by Dan Gavin '00, changes in a different way. His emotions heighten wildly aided by the fantastic drumming of Ethan Miller. Slowly, Teiresias builds intensity, and in a perfor-

mance dubbed by one student as, "the best performance I've ever seen at Bates," he explodes on stage, collapsing to the floor synthesized with the beat of the drums. Gavin represents what happens when every bit of the play comes together at once: an intense drama unfolds before the dumbfounded audience.

Another bonus: in a moment of mutual consent, Pringle allows Gavin to take the stage. Creon's own emotional explosion is saved until after Gavin's departure.

Each character performed well and with ease. However, the brilliantly designed set, a construction that seemed to offer myriad possibilities, is somehow ignored. In addition, the chorus is forced to sit on the stage for extended periods of time with very few lines.

What do all of these problems have in common? It seems that it is the director's responsibility to construct pleasing, engaging blocking, to ascertain that the important lines are emphasized, as well as to give the actors positive encouragement. After the performance, I wondered how much of the play was self-directed.

Despite its few flaws, this play brought an onslaught of intensity into Gannett Theater. The actors seem to use every inch of their bodies to demonstrate their emotions. It is clear that each actor brings not only acting experience, but much emotional experience onto the stage. A play without even the slightest hint of comedy is difficult for college students to make engaging, and "Antigone" manages this formidable task. I highly recommend seeing this short play, which will be shown Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.



Ben Levy '98

Patrick Serengulian photo

Arts in Maine

AT BATES

Friday, November 14

"Antigone" directed by Martin Andrucki
8 p.m. Gannett Theatre
admission \$6, \$3 for students

Fortepiano recital: Zvi Menker performs works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven
8 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
admission free

Saturday, November 15

"Antigone" directed by Martin Andrucki
8 p.m. Gannett Theatre
admission \$6, \$3 for students

Bates College Orchestra directed by William Matthews
8 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
free admission

Sunday, November 16

"Antigone" directed by Martin Andrucki
2 p.m. Gannett Theatre
admission \$6, \$3 for students

Bates College Orchestra directed by William Matthews
2 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
free admission

Brahms' complete works for solo piano featuring Duncan Cummings '93 and Frank

Glazer

3 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
admission free

Monday, November 17

Workshop: Indian classical dance with Jothi Raghavan
4 p.m. Benjamin Mays Center

Tuesday, November 18

Noonday Concert Series
Bill Simamura, guitarist and singer-songwriter will perform original works
12:30 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
admission free

Workshop: Puerto Rican musician and drummer Miguel Almestica
4 p.m. Benjamin Mays Center

Wednesday, November 19

Bates Jazz Band directed by Mark Manduca
7:30 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
admission free

Thursday, November 20

Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven performed by fortepianist Zvi Meniker
7:30 p.m. Olin Concert Hall
admission free

OLIN MUSEUM OF ART
786-6158

Anthony Panzera

The Big Picture: Life-size Scrolls and Drawings
Upper Gallery
through December 19

Collection Highlights

Paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures from the Museum's collection
Lower Gallery
through December 19

IN MAINE

LEWISTON-AUBURN COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE

753-6500
Sur Bois: Franco-American Woodcarvers of Northern New England
October 12 through December 13

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART 775-6148

A Legacy for Maine: Masterworks from the Collection of Elizabeth B. Noyce
through January 4

Impressionist and Modern Works on Paper
through January 25

Poetic Vision: The Photographs of Ernst Haas
through January 18

SALT CENTER FOR DOCUMENTARY FIELD STUDIES 761-0660

Hanging out and Hearth
Documentary Photography by Kate Philbrick and Judy Bennett
through December 6

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART 725-3275

Portraits from the Permanent Collection
Bowdoin Gallery
ongoing exhibition

Dans la Zibeline du Zob: An Installation by Michele Blondel
Boyd Gallery
through December 7

Divine Love and Martyrs' Death: Renaissance and Baroque Images of Saints
Twentieth Century Gallery
through December 7

American Landscapes
Halford Gallery
through January 11

Asian Art from the Permanent Collection
Halford Gallery
ongoing exhibition

Other-worldly "Gattaca" orbits in future

By MARK GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

I was the only audience to speak of at a recent screening of the new multi-million dollar sci-fi fantasy, "Gattaca." I still can't decide if the absent theater-going masses were right to stay away — or maybe if they just didn't know what they were missing. Of course, this is all a roundabout way of confessing that as far as film reviews go, "Gattaca" is one tough call.

The labyrinthian plot not only defies rational recounting, but would also easily make an imbecile out of any movie critic foolish enough to try and hum a few bars for the benefit of those who went and bought tickets to "Starship Troopers" instead. Suffice it to say, the story is set in "the not too distant future," in a fascist-ordered universe known as Gattaca, where super-perfect people (not unlike the specimens found in most Calvin Klein ads) are hand picked to fly to Titan, just a few doors over from Saturn.

Like any other good space commie, cutie pie Ethan Hawke longs to serve Gattaca as one of its chosen navigators. However, we learn — courtesy of a hazy, tinted flashback — that at the time of Ethan's birth, his predetermined life expectancy was ringing in a little short — in fact, he was due to expire before most of the salad dressings in my refrigerator.

Undaunted by the fact that he'll be history before he can star in another sequel to "White Fang," our boy Ethan finagles a way to trade identities with a paralyzed swimmer (Loren Dean) and pass the former athlete's sterling genetic credentials off as his very own.

Writer/director Andrew Niccol attempts to tackle a profusion of politically relevant topics (corporate corruption, discrimination, cloning) beneath the funky fandango of the science fiction framework. In many ways, Niccol's film feels like an experimental novel — sometimes an especially fine, though obviously flawed one.

In fact, "Gattaca" probably would have made a better book than a movie — not only because it may have offered more in the way of some wonderfully offbeat shadings (like Hawke and Uma Thurman attending the recital of a 12-fingered pianist) or second helpings of that deliciously foy dialogue (Ethan: "A year's a long time." Uma: "Not so long. Just once around the sun."), but also because many of the scenes hint at having fuller, richer stories to tell... I wouldn't be surprised if the homoerotic undercurrent evident in Hawke's domestic arrangement with his swimming savior had been more fully developed in earlier stages of the film's production.

For everything that works in "Gattaca," there's also something waywardly

amiss. For starters, there are two competent, if not entirely compatible lead performances.

Eternally wounded and boyishly vulnerable, Ethan Hawke has always seemed like a distant cousin to the late James Dean. Although he's probably a tad too young for "mature" leading man roles such as the one he's playing in "Gattaca," Hawke is compelling and surprisingly watchable — even if you have difficulty believing him as anything other than the sniffing adolescent from "Dad" or "Dead Poet's Society." (WAS ETHAN HAWKE IN DEAD POET'S SOCIETY?)

Hawke seems all the more juvenile alongside the patrician hauteur of costar Thurman. With her regal bearing, runway poise and eerily precise enunciation, Thurman would appear to be right at home in the robotic wonderland of "Gattaca." To her credit, she seems to have discovered a decidedly dreamy rhythm that's uniquely her own — or maybe just slyly sampled from the best of Kim Novak, particularly her distingue demeanor in "Vertigo."

As both are essentially self-contained actors, Hawke and Thurman don't generate any real screen chemistry together, though ironically, their mismatched personas are oddly appropriate to the otherworldly atmosphere.

The eclectic supporting cast (which reads like a guest star passenger list

for a "Love Boat" episode) — is comprised of Gore Vidal, Alan Arkin and even Ernest Borgnine — all wasted in a trio of colorless, undefined peripheral roles.

On a purely visual level, "Gattaca" is absolutely stunning. One can only wonder about what kind of cinematographic precision it takes to capture everything from a stray eyelash to the shimmering sunlight of a bronzed dusk as it envelops an entire planet.

In its final moments, "Gattaca" buckles beneath the weight of its own opulent outlandishness, deliberately pushing what had previously been a straight-faced fantasy into the realm of unconfident campiness.

Unsure of how he should end the ambitious gamble that is "Gattaca," writer/director Niccol apparently decided to cash in his chips with a lame denouement unworthy of much of the inspired inventiveness that had come before.

As it stands, "Gattaca" belongs to that rare breed of movie hybrids like "Johnny Guitar," "Mommie Dearest" and "Boon!" — films that contain a confounding blend of the ridiculous and the sublime, which makes for an unforgettable viewing experience. As to whether one should go out and see "Gattaca," now's your chance to see one of the best bad movies to come along in quite a while.

Lucky Lindy soars radio airwaves in Musical Time Machine

By NILS VAN OTTERLOO
Staff Writer

Tune into 91.5 on your FM dial any Saturday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and you will be magically transported to the bygone era of the Golden Age of Radio by Linwood "Lucky Lindy" Martinkus, Bates night watchman and radio personality extraordinaire. Martinkus exhibits all the traits of a first-rate DJ including a thorough knowledge of the history of radio broadcasting, a deeply felt love for old-time music, as well as a childlike excitability that he confers on each and every show he produces. And what a show it is! Known as "The Musical Time Machine," his show spans nearly nine decades from the very earliest beginnings of radio broadcasts in 1910 to more contemporary music from the 80's. Linwood spends eight hours each week culling material from his extensive record and CD collection in order to make his show as tight and unflawed as possible so you can sit back, relax, and let him take you away to when we were young and radio was the new medium for media transferral. Think of him

as Bates' own Prairie Home Companion, with a soothing voice to make your heart melt, and a taste for the flavor of Lewiston, the only home he's ever known.

Linwood exhibits the knowledge and love for the medium of a life tuned into the radio. He was born in Lewiston in 1931, and has lived here ever since. He says, "When I was eight to twelve years old I used to skip school and visit the local radio station which in those days had a show with live Country and Western singers. Rather than go to sleep to be ready for school the next morning, I would stay up past midnight listening to the radio. It was so entertaining in those days with radio dramas like "The Shadow," live fireside chats with FDR, and so much more. And it was better than TV because you could imagine yourself right there, with the actors in any setting you desired. It was a wonderful time to be a boy growing up. All there was in High School was Radio, and all I ever wanted was to be a DJ."

Linwood started at Bates as a watchman in 1969, after spending twenty years working as a doorman at various movie the-

aters. He started his career as a DJ only a year and a half ago after some prompting by WRBC general managers Justin Andrus and Keith Gauger, and he has been right at home behind the main console at WRBC ever since. According to Linwood, WRBC wasn't always WRBC. It used to be located where Treat Gallery is now, and was known as WRJR. The current antenna at WRBC is the remnant of the previous tenant of the current home of OCS and WRBC, a local doctor who was a ham radio enthusiast. Badly in need of refurbishment, WRBC is currently seeking funding to revamp much of the station's older equipment including the antenna and amplification in order that WRBC might reach a much larger potential audience. Spearheading this effort is current WRBC General manager Keith Gauger.

Linwood sticks to an on-air philosophy of treating his show as if it were a form of psychological music therapy for his listeners. Towards this end he selects only the music which he feels is most conducive to setting a relaxing, feel-good atmosphere. When asked how he knows when a song is

really good for his radio format, he responded, "It's instinctual. I like it when I get a chill that runs down my spine from the music I listen to." In keeping with his roots as an avid radio listener, Linwood still plays the old radio dramas, and occasionally will throw in a fireside chat from FDR's presidency. It is a comforting thought that these important historical transcripts and songs still have a home on our own radio station, and that there is someone with as much care and dedication towards preserving them as Lucky Lindy.

When asked what he thought was in store for the future of radio in this era of spontaneous dissemination, internet, and direct satellite transmission, Linwood responded confidently, "Radio will never die, it will always be there." Surely he is right, if he can convey his love for the medium on which he was brought up to as many people as possible in the Lewiston area, and hopefully beyond.

Solidaridad Latina closes celebration with concert



Mezcla, a Cuban roots fusion ensemble, performs a free concert Tuesday night in the Gray Cage to celebrate National Latino Heritage Month

By TANIA RALLI
Arts Editor

As National Latino Heritage Month draws to a close, Solidaridad Latina plans to cap off the month differently than it has in previous years.

Instead of throwing a party, the group is bringing Mezcla, an internationally known Cuban band. Mezcla first caught the eye of those Bates students who spent last short term in Cuba and saw them in performance.

The six-member band hails from Havana, Cuba, and was founded by Pablo Menendez in 1985 as an exploration into Cuba's musical roots. The sound is a fusion of Afro-Cuban rhythms, jazz, reggae and rumba. Mezcla blends traditional and modern elements from Cuba's African, Spanish and Caribbean origins.

Mezcla has toured Europe several times as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. They are taking their current tour of the East Coast to Bates, followed by concert dates at U. Mass. and Cornell.

"The concert is a way for us to express a different part of our Hispanic culture to the Bates community and greater community as a whole," said Andre Gossen '00 of Solidaridad Latina, who has helped to bring Mezcla to Bates.

Solidaridad Latina strives to educate and make people aware of different cultures within Latin America and Spain.

Mezcla will be performing on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 8 p.m. in the Gray Cage. The concert is free and open to all.

"It is our hope that people have fun and leave this concert with a little more of an idea of Hispanic culture," Gossen said.

expand your horizons.
write for arts in the new year.

Sports

Swimming, diving teams look good

Season appears promising with excellent first-years and reternees

By WILL RICHARDSON
Staff writer

A few weeks ago, the winter sports season commenced and the Bates Swimming and Diving team hit the water with great expectations for the upcoming year. Although a lot of top swimmers were lost last year to graduation, the captains and coaches show great enthusiasm for the team, as there are many excellent returnees and incoming first-years. Both the men's and women's squad look to be stronger than last year, and the ultimate goal of NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Missouri at the end of the year seems possible for many of the swimmers. For now, though, the team is trying to pick up where they left off last year - as a perennial threat to everyone in the league.

The men's team is led by junior co-captain Damon Bowe ('99, Houma, LA) and Steve Simmons ('98, Orlando, FL). Bowe is coming off a stellar season, when he broke two Bates records (200 and 400 IM's), was the top scorer on the team, the eighth highest scorer at the New England Championships meet, and qualified for the NCAA Championships. Simmons was second in point totals for the team during last year's season and provides strong leadership for the team. Bowe and Simmons anchor the team, along with diver David Burke ('99, Andover, MA). Burke last year rewrote the record books for Bates Diving, placed first during every regu-

lar season meet, qualified for the NCAA Championships, and was selected as an NCAA All-American. Other important returnees are top breast stroke Chris Orpilla ('99, Seaside, CA) and Tyler Barnes ('00, Burlington, VT), freestyle sprinters Paul Urbanczyk ('00, Washington, DC), Todd McCoy ('99, Mystic, CT), and Todd Bailey ('00, Mount Vernon, WA), Imer Taki Miyamoto ('00, Tokyo, Japan), and integral divers Michael Yee ('98, Brookline, MA) and Corey Smith ('99, West Hartford, CT).

The class of new first-years also adds some much needed depth to the team, and are led by David Blaney ('01, Bar Harbor, ME), who was the top 50 freestyler in Maine as a high schooler last year. Joining him will be freestylers Mike Jensen (Manchester, NH) and David Sek (Peabody, MA), talented all-around swimmer Mike McCarthy (Highland Park, NJ), and sprinters Miles Cobb (Bethesda, MD), David Roth (Sharon, CT), and Paul Mignone (Katonah, NY). Much is expected from these first-years and they should make up for the losses in terms of points from the graduating seniors.

With all these powerful swimmers the Bobcats look to improve on last year's success. Last year the rivalry with Bowdoin was cranked up another notch, as Bates Swimming and Diving beat them for the first time in swimming history. The Colby meet is always intense as well, and this year will be

no different as the team goes for its second consecutive BBC championship title. The Wesleyan/Williams, Babson, and Trinity/Connecticut College meets also promise to be quite interesting and close. A 7-3 record seems within the Bobcats reach this year, and they will give it their all in trying to attain this goal.

The women's team also will be a competitor in the NESCAC standings, as they have assembled a strong group for the season. The team is led by co-captains, senior Denby Johnson (Chanhassen, MN), and junior Wendy Zimmerman (Denver, CO), who provide outstanding leadership for the women. Also contributing to the point totals will be Liz Fey ('00, Westport, CT) who is a steady breast-stroker. Megan Shelley ('00 Potomac, MD), Marin Magat ('00, Chapel Hill, NC), and Sue MacBride ('99, Dedham, MA) look to be in tip-top shape and should be challenging many competitors. The class of first-years look to complement these veterans and are expected to score in the point totals as well. Laura Hardester (Sparks, NV), Pamela Murchie (Westbrook, ME), and Gudrun Mirick (Chaska, MN) all look especially strong this year. They are excited to be a part of the tradition of Bates Swimming and Diving, and will give it their all.

The team looks to improve on their win total from a year ago, as they have stronger

swimmers this year and the first-years add depth to the team. There are many powerful teams in the NESCAC and the Bobcats expect to have tight meets with Bowdoin, Colby, Tufts, Wesleyan, and Trinity. Team intensity seems to be quite high this year. Co-captain Zimmerman said, "I want to pressure the teams that have blown us away, and blow away the ones that we have been even with."

The Bobcats are not backing down from anyone this year and look to be a serious threat.

Until the meets begin the women's team are just looking to fine tune their skills and get used to being in the water again. The outlook is bright for the Bates women's team.

The Bates Swimming and Diving team will be ready to put in their maximum effort when the season begins with a meet against Clark on November 23. Both Men's and Women's swimming and diving teams will be going to Fort Lauderdale, FL for a winter training trip as they did last year. They will be training with hundreds of other teams and expect to gel as a team over that time.

The season truly begins, though, on January 9 against Norwich at home, when all students will be on campus again. The tremendous dedication of the team is immeasurable, and they would enjoy a big turnout at their meets.

What happened to baseball?

Writer asserts that sports priorities have changed throughout the years

By DAVE RICHTER
Staff Writer

There was once a time when this nation revolved around baseball. All games were day games, there was no such thing as astroturf, and players made in a year what many players now make in an inning. The game was pure with little concern for annual revenue. It was assumed that people loved baseball, and money would therefore come in regardless of what new changes were made to the game.

Today that just doesn't sell. It's all about profits. All games are played at night when they will get the highest television draw, there are plans for three or four new stadiums with retractable domes, in order to draw more fans, and all sorts of other changes are being made which strip the game of its purity. On the other side we see a diminishing fan base. It seems that fewer and fewer people are actually interested in baseball these days. It simply lacks the fast pace or high scoring of other sports. Still there are those baseball purists such as myself who are hooked for life. We are a group that is dying off. Most fans nowadays are on the older side because it's been a long time since baseball put its traditions before money. Personally I feel the turning point was in 1957 when the Dodgers moved from their home in Brooklyn where everybody loved them to Los Angeles where they would make more money.

Stories I've been told and old articles are unfortunately all I have to go on about this period. Still, even with those sources, the comparisons between the two eras are startling. When my father was a kid he and all of his friends would make an annual tradition

of forming a temporary friendship with the one kid in his neighborhood who had a color television. They would then all be able to see the World Series, which was then played right after school, in full color. It was probably not the nicest thing to do, but it was nothing out of the ordinary at the time. People held different sentiments about baseball then. They compromised their morals in order to watch games. Before there was television and national radio, people would "watch" out of town games by someone in contact with a person at the stadium sending telegraphs about every play. They couldn't see what was happening at all, yet had enough of a love of the game to just sit in a room and get occasional updates about what was going on in the game.

Pretty soon things all changed. The movement of the Dodgers in 1957 was quickly followed by the Giants. This left New York, the town that had supplied so many cross-town World Series with only team. In New York the phrase "Center Field" was synonymous with the words "Willie, Micky, and the Duke". Only one remained because of the newly born trend to put money before tradition. Pretty soon baseball expanded and divided each league into two divisions which would have an extra round of playoffs before the World Series. At around the same time astroturf was introduced as a substitute for real grass. What came of this were lowered cost on grounds crews and futuristic indoor stadiums. Again tradition is compromised so that the owners can make more money.

Not long after this, baseball bred its second terrible trend: "free agents". Players who decide to play for the team which pays the highest. This started a spiral which is still

going today with higher salaries, higher ticket prices, and only the richest teams winning. At the heart of it all is greed. The last five years have been the most grotesque. In it we have seen a complete realignment of divisions with the addition of a central division in each league as well as a wild card in the playoffs. There has been a strike which ended one season and shortened the next.

There are now the two events in the past couple of weeks where the Milwaukee Brewers were switched to the National League for purposes which nobody can really figure out, and the announcement of the Florida Marlins being put up for sale. Wayne Huizenga, the owner, is actually selling the team which just a few weeks ago won the World Series faster than any team in history. The reason? The team was losing money.

Baseball is a sport (yes, it is a sport despite what my house-mates say) that is based on its traditions more than anything else. That is why its true fans are sticking with it while everyone else seems to feel it lacks excitement. When these traditions are damaged you begin to lose the base of fans who have loved baseball their whole lives. The changes might bring more revenue, but when will these changes have gone too far? If revenue is the only concern then why not legalize metal bats? Every offensive record will be doubled within a season. That will surely draw a crowd.

As hard as this is to accept for baseball purists, this is where baseball is headed, and unless it gets jump-started somehow, it will have no choice but to completely sell out. People simply don't know about baseball these days. When I was watching the World

Series in my house there were numerous people who came down and asked "Who's playing?". Forty years ago that would be like asking who the president of the United States was. As I watched Game Seven of the World Series go into extra innings, a thing a baseball fan dreams of, I had to explain to several people how extra innings work. It saddened me to see how far baseball had fallen that people actually didn't know some of the most basic rules.

With less and less people taking an interest in baseball it is almost understandable what the owners are doing. Still, any educated person, after examination of all the proposals could tell that these are short term solutions to a long term problem, and they are solutions which are raping baseball of all that has made it our national pastime. Hopefully a better solution will be brought up soon. There are only so many of these cheap gimmicks that will bring short term revenue boosts. If baseball is going to regain its popularity it will have to go back to its traditions, and allow its diminishing legion of fans to hand over a great game to a new generation who will appreciate the game for its proud history and its vital role in American culture.

You know the score.

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Scoreboard

Men's Cross Country

ECAC Championships at Westfield State, Nov. 8.

Without their top seven runners, the Bobcats finished 11th out of 27 teams at the ECAC championships. First-year runner Scott Balicki was Bates' top finisher, placing 45th in 27:31. Sophomore Kurt Deschermeier was next in 72nd place with a time of 28:04. The Bobcats' next meet is the New England Regional championship, held at Southern Maine. A top three finish there will gain the team a berth at the NCAA championships.

NESCAC teams at ECACs

2. Williams, 71
3. Tufts, 94
8. Colby, 270
11. Bates, 381
12. Conn College, 408
13. Middlebury, 429
14. Wesleyan, 481
22. Amherst, 589

Bates finishers

45. Scott Balicki, 27:31
72. Kurt Deschermeier, 28:04
84. Steve Mague, 28:19
89. Trevor Emory, 28:21
91. John Cullinan, 28:24
116. Dave Ennis, 28:48
163. Mike Crocker, 29:47

Women's Cross Country

ECAC Championships at Westfield

State, Nov. 8.

Holding most of their top runners out for the upcoming NCAA Regional meet, the Bobcats finished 19th out of 51 teams at the ECAC Championships. Leading the way for the Bobcats was senior Erika Cohen who finished 74th in 20:32. Close behind her was sophomore Tracy Lyford in 84th place in a time of 20:43.

Bates finishers

74. Erika Cohen 20:32
84. Tracy Lyford 20:43
121. Amanda Bergstrom 21:15
122. Courtney Elf 21:16*
132. Kirsten Tilney 21:21
145. Megan Hickey 21:50*
167. Carly Tarr 22:16

* lifetime bests

Football

Bates at Hamilton, Nov. 8.

The Bobcats (1-7) got off to a quick start, scoring first for the third time this season, but were unable to build on the lead, as the Hamilton College (2-6) Continentals had the better of the play in the pouring rain, 17-7. Things looked to be going the Bobcats' way on their first possession, which resulted from a Hamilton fumbled kickoff. The Bobcats got to the Continental 10-yard line, but could not get any closer, failing to convert a fourth and two play. On Hamilton's first possession, first-year corner back Pat Collins intercepted a pass and returned it 53 yards to the Conti-

mental two. Two plays later, senior tail back P.J. McGrail scored his team-leading fourth touchdown of the season. Unfortunately, the Bobcats would only penetrate Hamilton territory three more times on the afternoon. Only one of those three drives got inside the Continental 35. After going scoreless in the first quarter, Hamilton scored once in each of the next three, with their two touchdowns coming off Bates turnovers. McGrail entered the game as the leading rusher in the NESCAC. He rushed for 88 yards on 31 carries. He finishes the season with 745 yards. Sophomore Jason Coulie, the second leading receiver in the conference, had three more catches to end the season with 36.

Hamilton 17, Bates 7

Bates (1-7) 7 0 0 0 7
Hamilton (2-6) 0 7 3 7 17

Scoring:

B 1 8:13 P.J. McGrail 2 run (Rejean Guerriero kick) 0-7
H 2 9:14 Robbie Peters 5 run (Greg Bemis kick) 7-7
H 3 11:24 Bemis 20 field goal 10-7
H 4 12:12 Frank Loverro 1 run (Bemis kick) 17-7

Bates leaders: Rushing: P.J. McGrail 31-88-1.
Passing: Chris Snow, 19-6-3, 62 yards
Receiving: Jason Coulie, 3-38.

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Football's 1-7 record not sign of failure

By EVAN JARASHOW
Staff Writer

Many people will rightly question how we can call a 1 win, 7 loss season successful, but what these people fail to understand is that success is not always measured in wins and losses, but in improvement and in character. Recent Bates football teams have not garnered much respect, but this year's team rewrote the book on competitive spirit.

First of all, the 'Cats received some valuable experience on a very talented, but also very young team. Co-Captains Brendan Cullen '98, and Dave Barbour '98 provided the senior leadership that we knew might be lacking at the beginning of the season. Where the captains led in character, P.J. McGrail '98 led in performance, as he took home the honor of being the NESCAC's leading running back. He averaged 4.1 yards per carry, and 93.1 yards per game. All of this translated into 745 total rushing yards, very impressive over a scant 8 game schedule.

The facts and figures are great to talk about, but the real idea to contemplate is that this team made many overall improvements, and they are progressing well for next season. We knew at the start of the season that Bates probably was not going to be a contender for a NESCAC title, and although we did have some optimism, we did not plan on our team being this competitive. The fact that Bates was able to contend in just about every game they played, with noteworthy games against Middlebury, Williams, and Bowdoin, speaks volumes for the way this team improved as the season went along.

With all this said, that does not mean that the growth is complete. Although the 'Cats were in the game almost all of the time, their inexperience, youth, and occasional carelessness was visible in the number of mental errors they made. However, this only speaks well for the future, as further schooling will surely make them more competitive and disciplined.

"Our record may not have been phenomenal," Rick Parry, head coach, said, "but we came a long way this year. We kept almost every game close, and I feel that we matured considerably as a team. We showed a lot of improvement. One of our goals is to get better with every game, and I feel that we accomplished that."

What I have failed to mention so far is that Bates did manage to snap the infamous losing streak this year, with a wacky win over Colby in the middle of the season. The 'Cats squeaked out a one point win, 22 - 21. The win was truly unforgettable.

The '97 Bobcats were an extremely young team. What they lacked in experience was made up for in desire. This desire and endless intensity made this past season successful. The record is not a fair barometer of how well they played, and we must use a different set of criteria when evaluating them. This was a year of seasoning and preparation, as well as a test of each member's desire to play the game. If the intensity remains the same, there is no reason why Bates cannot be even more competitive next year.

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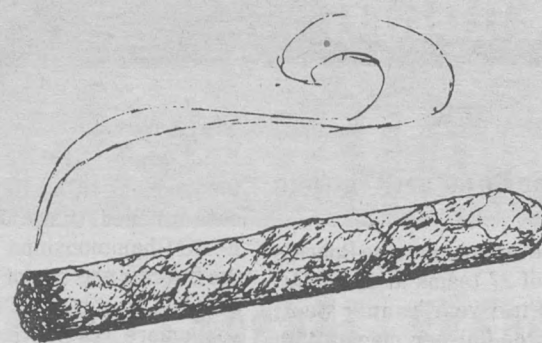
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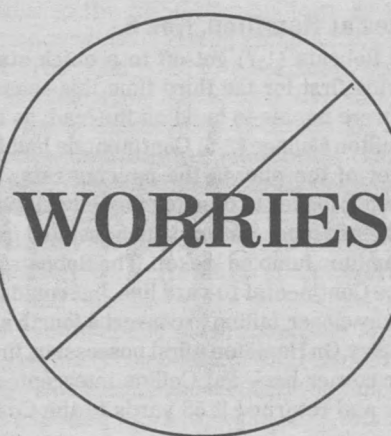
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“Telling a writer to relax is like telling a man to relax while being prodded for a possible hernia, and as for confidence, see how stiffly he sits, glaring at the screen that awaits his words. See how often he gets up to look for something to eat.

A writer will do anything to avoid the act of writing.”

— William Zinsser

’Tis the season for empathy for those who are working on theses and final papers.

And for those who are studying for exams.

We’ll catch up on news next year.

Look for the next issue of The Bates Student on January 16.

Question on the Quad

Special Personal Ads Edition!



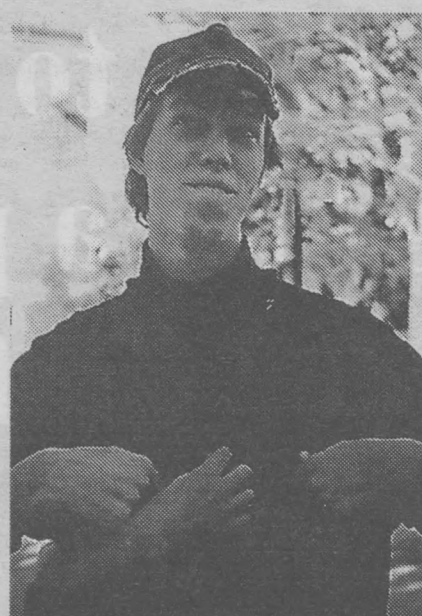
"SWF, looking for Sven."

Alicia Bucknam '98



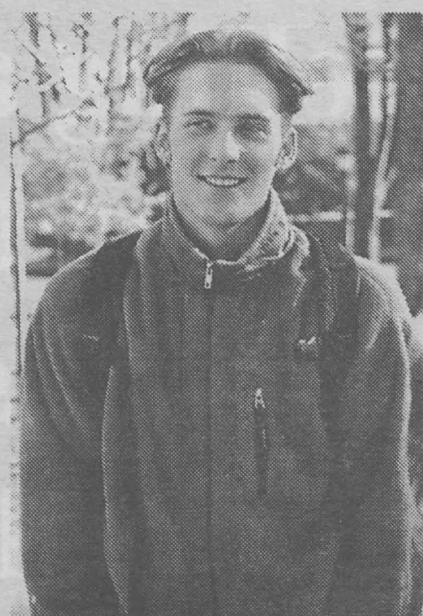
"SWM, beach volleyball player, likes rap, enjoys writing, looking for companionship, someone who is fun to be with, athletic, sensual, voluptuous, I'm waiting for Ms. Right. (You know who you are!)"

Russ Smith '01



"Tall, lanky, three-nippled man seeks three-nippled woman..."

Keith Gauger '99



"Well, I just responded to this incarcerated women personal ad, so I'm all set, thanks."

Woody English '99

Reported by Glen Philley • Photos by Elizabeth Purinton

Stop the insanity.



Hi. I'm Rob Pelkey, online editor of the *Student*. These are actual photos of me having a nervous breakdown over the fact that the *Student* doesn't currently have an assistant online editor.

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